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Organ of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

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SALT LAKE CITY, FEB. 19, 1900.

WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE?

A subscriber in one of the southern towns of this State, asks the Deseret News this question:

"Are our school trustees, or teachers, responsible for damage done to property by school children while under their jurisdiction each day?"

There have been some decisions by the courts in different States bearing on this question. We understand from them that the school trustees of the various country school districts, and the boards of education in the cities where they are organized, are held responsible for damages by school children during school hours and in recess. One decision, rendered in St. Louis, made the board of education responsible for conduct of school children during the time from dismissal till reaching home. This, however, appears to be a great stretch of responsibility and something unreasonable.

The theory is that when children are placed in school they are under the care and direction of the principal, who is responsible to the board of education or school trustees, and the board is responsible to the public. During recess, the pupils are still in charge of the school authorities, who are held responsible for damages that those pupils may inflict upon person or property.

The disposition to destroy is very marked in a number of the youth of all communities. The children of this State are no exception to the rule. There should be more attention than is commonly given to this matter. Our young folks should be taught that there is no real fun in the destruction of anything of value, particularly when it belongs to others. The spirit of mischief may be tolerated when it does not go to the length of infringement upon personal and property rights and liberties.

Laws, for the protection of these rights, should be enforced upon all who are old enough to clearly distinguish between right and wrong, between obedience and disobedience, between self-restraint and reckless rebellion. But better than that should be the continuous impression upon the minds of the young of the respect due to the feelings, wishes and rights of others. This is a proper subject for the school room as well as the family circle, and it needs much more attention than it usually receives both from parents and teachers.

Recreation and a proper amount of liberty are necessary to the development and happiness of youth, but obedience to law and regard for the feelings and rights of others should be strongly inculcated, and when necessary enforced. Breaking windows, carrying away gates and bridges, laying snarls and traps for the purpose of bringing personal injury upon individuals, and similar diversions, ought to be suppressed, and the law, as we have stated, makes the school authorities responsible for the consequences of lawlessness which result in injury to person or property by children while under their supervision.

ADVERTISING AND MEAT-EATING

We have received a lengthy argument on the subject of meat-eating by a respected contributor to our columns, which we do not publish because it purports to be a reply to an article in the Deseret News which, on investigation, turns out to be merely an advertisement. There are many excellent suggestions and reflections in the communication we have received, but its publication would put this paper in an improper position.

It is clear to all readers of the Deseret News or of any other general newspaper, that the editor is not in any way responsible for that which appears in the advertising column, or in type which is never used except for advertising purposes. The space devoted to those uses is paid for according to contract on business principles. While the Deseret News does not admit to its advertising departments anything that would be improper to be published as a circular, or poster, or business sign, it receives and publishes respectable appeals to the public from various sources, and the revenue thus obtained forms its chief financial support, the same as other public journals.

No daily newspaper subsists entirely upon its subscription fees. Without the funds derived from the sale of its advertising space, it could not pay expenses. A card or large advertisement in a newspaper is similar to a sign upon a store or office. The person or firm that displays it is responsible for what it contains, not the printer of the sign or the paper that publishes the advertisement.

This ought to be understood by every reader of a public journal. The views and opinions of the Deseret News will be found in its editorial columns, and to one should imagine for a moment that every statement that is advertised to cure the ills of humanity, and every theory that may be set forth in

such notices, is endorsed or guaranteed by the paper in which it appears.

There are various views on the subject of flesh meat as an article of diet. Extreme notions are entertained by advocates on either side. Vegetarians who eschew the flesh of animals as food, and people who chew meat to excess, using little or no vegetables and fruits, are, in our opinion, extremists, not to be relied upon as guides to the masses of humanity. The teeth of the normal man and woman indicate capacity for the mastication of various kinds of edibles. We are aware that there are contentions on this point, some students of physiology showing the special adaptability of some teeth for flesh-eating, and others arguing that those teeth are for the grinding of grain and fruits. We believe the evidence is in favor of both and not to the exclusion of either.

It is argued that meat-eating nations are the rulers of the world. If that be a fact, it does not follow that meat-eating is the cause of civilization, or that it gives dominant power to the flesh-eaters. The two facts may co-exist apart from the principle of cause and effect. Therefore, an argument to prove that nations which have used little or no flesh as diet have been prominent in history cuts no real figure in the dispute.

The vegetarian quotes from Gen. 1:29, that God gave "every herb bearing seed and the fruit of every tree yielding seed" unto man for meat. That was before the flood. After the flood, the Lord gave to man "every moving thing that liveth" and said, "It shall be meat for you," only excepting "flesh with the life thereof which is the blood thereof." Gen. ix: 3-4. But later on God gave to Israel, as part of the law of carnal commandments, prohibitions as to the flesh of animals, specially adapted to that time and that people and that part of the earth. In these days the same authority has given to the Latter-day Saints, "the beasts of the field and the fowls of the air, that which climbeth upon the trees and walketh upon the earth," for food. (Doc. & Cov. Sec. 59), but also a Word of Wisdom in which it is counseled that flesh should be eaten only in times of cold, or famine or excess of hunger. (Sec. 89.)

Take all the divine directions together, in their times and seasons and places, and the lesson will be learned that all animal and vegetable creations are for the use of man, and when necessity arises are for food, and that they are to be partaken of "not to excess," but with "prudence and thanksgiving" with "judgment and with skill."

What is suitable for one person is often unsuitable for another. That which is necessary in some climates is unnecessary, indeed hurtful, in others. That which is good in cold weather is injurious in the hot season. Every sane person is supposed to be able to understand his or her own peculiar conditions and needs, and with the guides given by revelation to so regulate the diet that it shall be beneficial to build up the system and ward off decay.

Whenever one person attempts to dictate to another what he shall eat, wear or avoid, contrary to divine commandment, there is an assumption which is not wise nor in accordance with the principles of human liberty. The vegetarian may partake of that which suits himself; the meat-eater that which he finds he can assimilate. Neither should be dogmatic as to the other.

Paul said "Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind." But all should be guided by the laws and counsels of that Eternal Being who is the Creator and Governor of the universe, and has placed under the dominion of His sons and daughters everything that comes of the earth, in the season thereof, "for food and for raiment, for taste and for smell, to strengthen the body and to enliven the soul." The Word of Wisdom is both scientific and religious, and when received and obeyed according to the "spirit and meaning thereof," will be found of incalculable benefit to mankind.

THE SALOONS FIRST.

The war with Spain was undertaken and carried to a successful conclusion for the purpose of bringing liberty to an oppressed race, and with it a higher civilization than that enjoyed by the colonial subjects of the European country. But from numerous reports it appears that the saloon element has been ahead of the banner-bearers of civilization, at least in the Philippines. The drink traffic is more flourishing than education.

Recently Capt. Frank M. Wells, chaplain of the First regiment of Tennessee Volunteers gave a public lecture on the drink traffic in the Philippines. According to him, before the advent of the Americans, there were but three saloons in Manila, and in each only "soft drinks" were sold. There are now 400 saloons, while in the archipelago there are 300 liquor dealers, representing firms in America. Mr. Wells asserts that "the liquor rate of transportation from Kentucky to the Philippine archipelago is less than the rate from Kentucky to California," and that is how the railroads and philanthropic steamship companies become responsible for the introduction of drink to the people. But the chaplain is quoted as follows:

"While on board one of the transports to Cebu, I found that liquor selling was the same as on other transports. I tried to have it stopped, but failed. I took special care of the men in my regiment, with the determination that if I could not save their souls, I would at least get them to hell sober. I never saw so much liquor on a Mississippi steamboat, and I have traveled on a good many, as I saw on the transport Sheridan the last three days we were in Cebu. There one could see, on every street corner, native women with bottles of liquor in baskets, and a cup. These women would retail the liquor to our soldiers at 15 cents a drink."

The facts as thus related should call for some loud protest from the American people, and a demand that something be done to right the wrong committed by introducing intoxication among the Filipinos. There has been a great hue and cry in behalf of the American home, What about the Filipino home? Is there anything more serious to a home than excessive drink? Where are the protests and the virtuous resolutions against American greed

introducing death and eternal ruin among a people dependent upon our government for protection? Orientals are generally sober. Drunkenness is not among their prominent vices. When they take to drink to excess, it generally kills them. The saloon would be an instrument of extermination among the Malays.

The president of the Philippine commission, Dr. Schurman, it will be remembered, in his report, expressed regret that the Americans should have been permitted to establish saloons in the Philippines, "for nothing has done so much damage to the reputation of the American people as this." Unless some means be found to counteract the influence of the saloon, the work of "civilization" will be slow indeed.

LORD ROBERTS ADVANCING.

The dispatches from South Africa indicate that Lord Roberts has succeeded admirably in his plans for the invasion of the Orange Free State. The Boers under General Cronje have been driven from their positions between Maserfontein and Jacobabad. With Kimberley relieved, the next move should be towards the capital of the Free State. Kilp Drift, on the Modder river, is ninety miles west of Bloemfontein, and the country between is a vast, level.

The advance cannot be very rapid, though. Probably Lord Roberts will have to keep to the railroad from Colesburg north, rather than march through the open country eastward. In that case he must seize and operate the road, mend the track and defend it, as he advances. The Boers, as they fall back, will of course destroy the road, and do all the damage they can to the road bed, so the advance toward Bloemfontein must necessarily be slow. To abandon the railroad track will be impracticable, because an army of the size now under General Roberts cannot easily be provisioned by means of wagon trains.

From Bloemfontein the road leads to Pretoria, the capital of the Transvaal. The distance is a little more than three hundred miles. The intervening country is said to be level, sometimes a desert. Forage and provisions are scant, and will be rendered more scant still, by the Boers devastating their own country as they fall back from the overwhelming numbers of invaders.

Undoubtedly the real war in South Africa has now commenced. It will be fought along the line, the key to which is now in the hands of the British commander. It looks as if General Joubert cannot too hastily withdraw from the region of Ladysmith, so as not to be caught between two forces and finally encircled in the mountain passes through which he descended into Natal. Those whose sympathies naturally are with the Boers in their struggle for independence may at first regret the turn of events. But on second thought they will perhaps feel thankful that the end of the war is brought nearer by every telling victory. It should be plain to all that only by a miracle, or by some gigantic upheaval in European politics, which would itself amount to a calamity, can the two African Republics be saved from the power of the British empire. Had Lord Roberts been defeated, or met with reverse at Modder river, this would only have prolonged a struggle which has already cost too much blood and property. In the interest of humanity and civilization, the desire must be general for a cessation of the African war. But it can only end with the British masters over the situation, unless, indeed, something not in view now takes place.

Behind all the minor questions of controversy which came up before the outbreak of hostilities in the great one, which fear is to be supreme in South Africa. That is the matter in controversy. Undoubtedly when the war is decided in favor of the colors of Great Britain, the Boers will be in the enjoyment of as many rights and privileges as they have now under their own flag. There are thousands of them living all over British territory, and they do not seem to have risen in great numbers to help their friends in the two republics.

TWO VIEWS.

One feature of the magazine literature that professes to deal with the so-called "Mormon" question is this, that one part of it contradicts another part, although both claim to be founded on personal observations of facts. A writer in the Outlook, for instance, emphatically declares that "polygamy is dead," and that President Woodruff's Manifesto in 1890, "gave it its death blow." Another writer, for the Atlantic Monthly, takes the opposite view and affirms that "polygamy will die when we kill it, and not sooner."

In Utah it is well known where the misinformation given publicity by the Atlantic Monthly comes from. But the general public cannot be supposed to know that the writer distributes slander and falsehood for fact. All do know, however, that of two contradictory propositions both cannot be true; also that there is every reason to believe that the Manifesto had the effect of changing the practice of the people as to their marriage relations. The reverence of the "Mormons" for their leaders; their belief in inspiration; the fact that the old fight was abandoned by the enemies of the Church; everything speaks for the view expressed in the Outlook that the Manifesto "gave it its death blow." Why should the American people, on the assertion of enemies, believe the improbable rather than the probable?

McGUFFERT'S CASE.

The New York Presbytery has decided not to try Rev. Dr. McGuffert for heresy, but simply to disavow his teachings. This gives the accused preacher the privilege of remaining in the Presbyterian church and teaching students his particular theological views, although it is understood that those views are not endorsed by the denomination to which he belongs. The Presbytery may have learned that Briggs' rates are of no profit in this age. Dr. McGuffert might have been tried and excommunicated from the Presbyterians, but he was perfectly welcome to the hand of fellowship among the Congregationalists, and an

excommunication would therefore have had no meaning at all.

Where "the church" is invisible, distributed among the various denominations, as a palace with so many different apartments, each governed by its own occupants, excommunication is not possible. A "heretic" may be driven from one room to another, but not from the palace by one occupant. He may be a "heretic" in one story of the great Babylonian structure, but an orthodox in the very next. A light seems to have dawned upon a conservative religious body which needs a great deal of enlightenment.

EMANCIPATION QUESTION.

A great deal of comment has been caused by the views recently expressed by Cardinal Gibbons on the advanced woman. What he said was this:

"I regard woman's rights women and society leaders in the higher walks of life as the worst enemies of the female sex. They rob woman of all that is amiable and gentle, tender and attractive; they rob her of her innate grace, of character and give her nothing in return but masculine boldness and brazen effrontery."

"Under the influence of such teachers, we find woman, especially in higher circles, neglecting the household duties, raddling about, never at peace unless she is in perpetual motion, never at ease unless she is in a state of morbid excitement. She never feels at home except when she is abroad. When she is at home the home is like a prison to her. She chafes and frets under the restraint and responsibility of domestic life. Her heart is abroad."

This is a severe rebuke, especially from one who can speak with authority in behalf of one of the most powerful and influential religious organizations on earth. It is presumed that he stated the attitude of the Roman church toward the movement for the so-called emancipation of woman. No wonder that the prelate has been made the object of criticism by the friends of that movement.

It is just to state, though, that a great many American women feel that the prelate has but interpreted their own sentiments. They believe that those women who devote themselves to their homes, husbands and children, rather than to what parties, teas, and clubs, are the ones who exercise the greatest influence for good in the human family.

But for them, the divorce courts would be still more liberally patronized than they are, and the slimy currents of sin and shame would run swifter and cause more ruin.

Gen. Cronje appears to be developing excellent qualities as a sprinter.

The Boer grip on the British lion's tail seems to have been lost entirely.

The Irish appear to be striking westward fast. Last year 23,000 of them came from Ireland to New York, an increase of 4,468 over 1898.

The Boers made one success in the face of Lord Roberts' plan. They got away in comparative safety, losing but few prisoners.

The Harper Brothers' reorganization seems to have put the big publishing house fairly on its feet, and in shape to clear off obligations.

Mail for Tahiti is now carried in steamships. The improvement is highly gratifying. It is time for Tahiti to be brought into closer communication with civilization.

Ex-Speaker Reed advises the paper manufacturers not to make paper too cheap. Either as lawyer or politician his counsel is unnecessary. The paper makers will get all they can.

Ex-Consul Macrum says he can prove his allegations about American official mail being tampered with by British officials. He ought to be given a chance, so that the charge can be established or cleared away.

Gen. Buller has beaten the Boers at the Tagela. His dispatch received today appears to record the most successful movement he has made, and affords a hope of his yet being able to relieve Ladysmith from the south.

Discussions of the next place where the Boers will make a stand is so uncertain as to be uninteresting, though the military experts indulge in it. A more absorbing topic is the present ruin, and whether there are any traps attached.

Judge Johnson, of Denver, has granted a temporary injunction forbidding a boycott of a merchant by labor unions. If the union members do not want to trade at the store, it is difficult to see how an injunction can make them do so.

If Russia were to go to war now, the situation of that country would be very different from that met by the two great Anglo-Saxon nations. These were practically united, but Russia would be likely to have to deal with a Polish uprising, if not more.

Angry elephants at liberty at the Crystal Palace near London on Sunday killed two men, badly injured another, and created a panic. The dispatch does not tell of any injuries by the latter, but it is safe to assume that many persons were hurt more or less. It could hardly be otherwise in such a scene of terror as the cable depicts briefly.

several. It were better to erect a monument in the Paris cemetery, where it is known that Commodore Jones's remains are one of three or four bodies, than to risk bringing the wrong one to the United States.

The statement from a prominent English editor that America might propose to the British government peace on certain conditions, shows that close attention is being paid on the other side to the expression of American public sympathy with republican government in South Africa. But at present there does not appear any probability of the suggested mediation.

THE PHILIPPINES.

Baltimore Sun.

President McKinley, according to a Washington dispatch in the New York Tribune, will soon issue a proclamation of amnesty declaring the Philippine "rebellion" at an end and calling on Filipinos in arms to return to their peaceful vocations, with the protection of the United States, under penalty of being regarded as outlaws at the end of thirty days if they disobey.

"The 'disobedience' is not about to collapse, although there have been a number of misleading statements from Washington as to Manila to the effect that the situation is peaceful. If the Philippines have been practically subjugated at last and civil government is to be established, there seems to be no reason for the creation of another commission.

Milwaukee Wisconsin.

Preliminaries of the establishment of order in the Philippines are being actively arranged. First came the publication of the old commission's report, then the appointment of Judge William H. Taft of Ohio as chairman of the new commission to govern the islands. Chairman Payne of the ways and means committee has introduced in the House a copy of the Spooner bill designed to vest in the President the entire control of the Philippine islands. The bill adopts the exact language of the bill passed by the Democratic Congress, which annexed Louisiana early in the century and gave to President Jefferson the entire control of conditions there.

Springfield Republican.

The vitriolic influence of administration bias is nowhere seen more clearly in the full report than in the commission's consideration of a question of state question. It was here that the administration made its fundamental error. If England had had the Philippines problem to deal with there is not the slightest doubt that she would have established a protectorate over the islands, and not have annexed them outright. The protectorate is a favorable system with England, and when ever they have discussed America's relation to the Philippines they have generally advised the application of it.

Boston Herald.

Fortunately for the country, positions on the new Philippine commission are being regarded as highly desirable. Judge Taft of Ohio, who had a life office in the circuit court of the United States, is to resign to accept the appointment of the commission's head, and it is certain that a man of the best character and ability has been obtained in him. A United States citizenship has been regarded as the most desirable office in the nation next to that of President, or perhaps justice of the United States Supreme Court. Men are in the habit of refusing to take the vice presidency or place in the cabinet, rather than give it up. Yet we are told that Senator McLaughlin of South Carolina will relinquish it to go on this commission. If such is the spirit of our able men, there should be no difficulty in providing the best of them to take charge of government affairs in our new possessions.

St. Paul Pioneer Press.

The appointment of Judge Taft to head the commission for the establishment of civil government in the Philippines throws a good deal of light on a short bill introduced by the middle of January by Senator Spooner. This measure, which has not yet been taken up, but which is considered almost certain to become law, provides: "That when all insurrection against the sovereignty and authority of the United States in the Philippine islands shall have been completely suppressed by the military and naval forces of the United States, all military, civil and judicial powers necessary to govern the said islands shall, until otherwise provided by Congress, be vested in such manner as the President of the United States shall direct, for maintaining and protecting the inhabitants of said islands in the free enjoyment of their liberty, property and religion."

MOLINEUX.

Troy Press.

Molineux is adjudged guilty of murder in the first degree, the penalty of which is to be put to death in the agonies of the electric chair. Whether or not he is guilty of the horrible crime for which he has been convicted, God only knows. We do not; Judge Golf does not; the jury did not. The evidence was so involved and uncertain that thousands who followed it believed that the verdict was unjust. The evidence was not the poisoner. Many men have been hanged upon stronger circumstantial testimony, while innocence was subsequently established.

Baltimore Sun.

Molineux will appeal, of course, and on this point the New York Tribune says: "It appears to us that the Appellate Division will not be required to pronounce judgment on grave questions than the next step in the Molineux case will bring to its attention." Apparently Molineux is regarded by many persons in New York, lawyers as well as laymen, as a defendant who was probably guilty of the crime imputed to him, but whose guilt had not been proved by the evidence, but because the impression had gained currency, as impressions frequently will in such cases, that the evidence did not warrant such a finding. The situation is one, however, in which it is not the part of propriety to be too dogmatic on that point. A jury of intelligent men in a trial of this character frequently see and hear points of evidence that are not and cannot be taken by the stenographer, and hence do not find their way into the newspapers.

Boston Herald.

There are still some thoughtful journals in New York. The Tribune, for instance, seems to view the verdict in the Molineux case with all that it implies, as furnishing food for serious reflection. The world makes this pertinent remark: "The recorder charged the jury that it must consider neither the impassioned pleas of the lawyers nor anything else except the evidence. Why, in the way, are the lawyers permitted to make impassioned pleas which the jury must not consider?"

Boston Transcript.

The verdict of "murder in the first degree" which was rendered Saturday against Roland R. Molineux, as the recorder of the New York, came upon the public with the force of shock. Not that it is questioned with respect to its accuracy, justice or justice, but because the impression had gained currency, as impressions frequently will in such cases, that the evidence did not warrant such a finding. The situation is one, however, in which it is not the part of propriety to be too dogmatic on that point. A jury of intelligent men in a trial of this character frequently see and hear points of evidence that are not and cannot be taken by the stenographer, and hence do not find their way into the newspapers.

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